

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed September 26, 2007, claims 1 – 7 were rejected. In response, claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 were amended and claims 8 – 14 were added. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims, the new claims, and the below-provided remarks.

### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note that claims 1 – 7 are deemed to be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as set forth below.

### Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 1 – 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office action identified the term “strip-like” in claim 1, the phrase “the connection being made...” in claim 4, and the term “paper-like” in claims 3 and 6 as being indefinite.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, and 6 to remove the terms “strip-like” and “paper-like.” In claim 1, the phrase “[a] lead-frame configuration that is strip-like in form” has been amended to recite “[a] lead-frame that is in the form of a lead-frame strip.” In claims 3 and 6, the term “a paper-like material” has been removed. In claim 4, the phrase “the connection being made...” has been amended to recite “the connection between the reinforcement ribbon and the connecting plates being made...”

Applicants assert that the above-identified amendments particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

### New Claims

Claims 8 – 14 have been added. Claims 8 and 9 specify that the fastening material is an adhesive material. Support for claims 8 and 9 is found, at least, in claims 3 and 6 as originally filed. Independent claim 10 is similar to claim 1 except that the limitations related to the reinforcement strip and the connection between the reinforcement strip and the connecting

plates is moved to dependent claims 11 and 12. Claims 13 and 14 are similar to claims 2 and 3, respectively.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments, the new claims, and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

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